



SENATOR

MICHELLE A. McMANUS

McManus Minutes



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“This office belongs to the citizens of the 35th district.”

State Senator Michelle A. McManus

Senate encouraging land preservation

Legislation to help promote land preservation has been introduced in the Senate. I sponsored Senate Bill 1004, which provides tax incentives to make it easier for land to maintain its conservation easement when ownership is transferred, for example in cases of inherited land.

SB 1004 removes the “pop-up” tax from the lands that are enrolled in qualified conservation easements. Any residences or buildings on the property would still be subject to the “pop up” tax. The legislation is part of a three-bill package to encourage land conservation in the state. The other bills in the package, Senate Bills 317 and 1038 would provide property and income tax credits for land that is put into a conservation easement.

The plan addresses some of the key challenges to land conservation in our state. Many of the parcels individuals are looking to conserve are sought-after properties and can carry a substantial market value, making it difficult to afford the potential “pop-up” on the land, in addition to the opportunity cost of putting it into a conservation easement.

Senate committee to take up child passenger safety bills

The Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday will take up legislation that would help make car travel safer for children. I sponsored Senate Bill 183, which would require all children over the age of four to be in booster seats until they were at least 4 feet 9 inches tall or reached their eighth birthday, whichever came first.

Other bills in the package would require children 12 and younger to be in the backseat and properly restrained in a motor vehicle when a backseat and appropriate safety belts are available and eliminate the exemption allowing children being nursed to be unrestrained in a moving vehicle. Fines collected for non-compliance would be placed in a special fund designated for the purchase of booster seats by low-income families.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of accidental death for children up to age 15 according to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. In 2002, 49 children under age 15 died and 7,232 were injured in traffic crashes in Michigan.

Contact Me

My door is always open. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding state issues. You can reach my Lansing Office by phone at: 517-373-1725; toll free at 866-305-2135, or contact my Cadillac District Office at 231-775-8599. If you received this as a forwarded message and would like to receive future legislative updates via e-mail, you can sign up at my website: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/mcmanus>.